

To the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina.

*The Petition of Susanna Price, wife of Washington Price, by Mary Webb, the mother and next friend of the said Susanna,*

MOST HUMBLY SHOWETH,

That a petition (it is said) signed by Thomas Price, and by Washington Price, the husband of your Petitioner, hath been presented to, and is now before your Body, which in matter, as well as in manner and style, evinces a rancorous hostility on the part of one of the Subscribers to your very respectful, but very unhappy Petitioner.

That your Petitioner, by her next friend as aforesaid, without attempting to inquire whether that Petition be in its phraseology and style such as comports with the dignity of the House to receive, or its matter such as it can constitutionally entertain, or act upon; and without stooping to criticise, or descending to notice, the scurrilous vulgarity of expression indulged in as regards your Petitioner, "who is more sinned against than sinning;" and who, if disposed to bandy hard names with her persecutor, Mr. Thomas Price, could apply some without committing any outrage on truth, (though she would on decorum,) for their correctness would be established by every man, woman and child, in his neighborhood, not directly dependant on him, that have known or noticed his career through life; but your Petitioner's indulging in such a course of recrimination, (if she may with strict propriety use the term,) is forbidden as well by delicacy, and the high respect she entertains for your Body—a Body, the pride and the boast of the State—as by the sincere love and ardent affection she bears her dear and lawfully wedded husband; a husband, who has been voluntarily chosen from among many rivals by her maiden, virgin heart, and whose father she therefore feels herself irresistibly compelled to reverence, as being the author, under God, of the existence of her dearly and truly beloved and honored husband, even though that father be her traducer and persecutor; for ardent affection, such as your Petitioner's, throws a cloak over matters which cold hearts and money making heads never surmount, or forget; as all the doors which charity and good will throw open to reconciliation are, with such, closed forever.

That though your Petitioner has heard with astonishment and sorrow, that charges of the most serious, the most heinous, and the most detestable nature have been made against her by Thomas Price, Esq. her revered father-in-law, she is utterly at a loss what course to pursue to assert her vested rights—rights consecrated by religion, by law, and by the experience of ages and of our progenitors, because they are the rights of marriage, venerable from ages, and hitherto sacred in the eyes of public policy, and of sound morality—for the Petition of Mr. Thomas Price was received and acted on by your Honorable Body, without any regular notice thereof being given to your Petitioner or to any of her friends, by which she could be made a party thereto, as she of right should have been, nor has any communication ever been made to her on the part of, or by, your Honorable Body relative to the said proceeding against her, nor should she have known that such proceedings against her were in train, or progressing before your Body, but for an insulting memorandum, in the nature of a notice, subscribed by Thomas and by Washington Price, and forwarded to your Petitioner; who, as being under the age of fourteen years and a married woman, was, and is, incapable of acting, except by her guardian and next friend; which memorandum, with marked disrespect, required the instant attendance of your Petitioner before your Body, but which memorandum or notice being but the act of an unauthorised individual, as she conceived, she did not, nor does not, think herself bound to obey, however much that individual (*Mr. Price*) so giving her notice of his own authority to appear before your Body, may presume on the influence the actual possession of inordinate wealth may perchance give him; or however well assured he may think himself of the support and patronage of great and influential men, acting upon prejudices imbibed by misrepresentations; for to an official act of your Honorable Body, made known to her agreeably to the laws of the land, and to the usage and customs of your Body, she would have paid that instant obedience that would have been conclusive of the veneration in which she holds the General Assembly; but irregular, informal and unlawful, as is the memorandum or notice so given to her, and oppressive and singular as is the extraordinary course of proceeding against her, such is the confidence of your Petitioner in the integrity, independence and justice of your Body; and such is her consciousness of the purity of her life and intentions, and her innocence of the foul, slanderous, and malignant calumnies so industriously circulated to destroy her fair fame, prosperity, and peace of mind for ever, and further the intentions of her persecutor by insidiously enlisting the prejudices of the individuals composing your Honorable Body against your unhappy Petitioner, and thereby satiating his hostility to her, the very head and front of whose offending is, that she is poor, and has been (most unluckily for herself) the cause of his being disappointed in the gratification of the hope he had indulged in, of seeing his son, your Petitioner's husband, married to the wealthy heiress of some of the rich and fast rising nobles of the land; for the ambition and aspiring disposition of your Petitioner's revered father-in-law, Mr. Thomas Price, is only second to his lust of money. And to those causes your Petitioner ascribes the little regard he pays to truth, in the charges he has so coarsely and rudely made against your Petitioner; charges as slanderous as they are false: and unfounded as they are malicious; as she can fully establish by the most respectable and independent